

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for managing a communications system having a plurality of voice channels and a user terminal for receiving at least one of the voice channels, the apparatus comprising:

a receiving element for receiving a plurality of ~~the~~ conference voice channels;

a controller for identifying one of the conference voice channels to be monitored;

an event detection element for detecting the presence of a predeterminable event in the identified conference voice channel; and

wherein the apparatus is configured, in response to the detection of a predeterminable event, to transmit an alert to a user terminal and allow a user to switch the identified voice channel to the user terminal and join a conference.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller is adapted to identify a voice channel in response to a request from the user terminal.

3 (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predeterminable event is the occurrence of a keyword and wherein the event detection element is adapted to detect a keyword.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predeterminable event is a silence period.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller is adapted for identifying a plurality of voice channels to be monitored and wherein the event detection element is adapted for monitoring each selected voice channel for a different event.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~further comprising an~~ wherein ~~the alert generator that is adapted for transmitting an audible alert to the user terminal.~~

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the audible alert is transmitted by mixing an audible alert with the at least one voice channel received by the user terminal.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the audible alert is transmitted at a time when the audio level of the at least one voice channel received by the user terminal is below a predetermined threshold.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an alert generator that is adapted for transmitting a signal to the user terminal to thereby cause the user terminal to generate a local alert.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, in which the events to be detected are definable by the user of the user terminal.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a recording element to record a portion of the monitored voice channel around the detected event, further comprising an alert generator that is adapted to playing the recorded portion to the user.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an element for automatically establishing a voice channel with a predeterminable destination, and wherein the controller is adapted for selecting that voice channel for monitoring for a predeterminable event.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a communications system having a plurality of voice channels and a user terminal for receiving at least one of the voice channels comprising:

receiving a plurality of ~~the~~ conference voice channels;

identifying one of the conference voice channels to be monitored;

detecting the presence of a predeterminable event in the identified conference voice channel; and

transmitting an alert to a user terminal; and

in response to the detection of the presence of the predeterminable event, allowing a user to switch the identified voice channel to the user terminal and join a conference ~~switching the identified voice channel to the user terminal.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 13, wherein the step of identifying a voice channel is made in response to a request from the user terminal.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of detecting is adapted for detecting the occurrence of a keyword.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of detecting is adapted for detecting a silence period.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of identifying a voice channel is adapted for identifying a plurality of voice channels and wherein the step of detecting is adapted for monitoring each selected voice channel for a different event.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according claim 13, ~~further comprising a step of generating an~~ wherein the alert by transmitting is an audible alert ~~to the user terminal.~~

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, further comprising mixing an audible alert with the at least one voice channel received by the user terminal.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 18, further comprising transmitting the alert to the user terminal at a time when the audio level of the at least one voice channel received by the user terminal is below a predeterminable threshold.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, further comprising a step of generating an alert by transmitting a signal to the user terminal to thereby cause the user terminal to generate a local alert.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the event to be detected is user-definable.

23. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising automatically establishing a voice channel with a predeterminable destination, and selecting that voice channel for monitoring for a predeterminable event.

24. (Original) A user terminal operating in accordance with the method of claim 13.

25. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for managing a telecommunications system having a plurality of voice channels and a user terminal for receiving at least one of the voice channels, the apparatus comprising:

a receiving element for receiving a plurality of ~~the~~ conference voice channels;

a controller for identifying one of the conference voice channels to be monitored;

a speech recognition engine for detecting the presence of a predeterminable keyword in the identified conference voice channel; and

an alert generator for generating an alert at a user terminal when the predeterminable keyword is detected; and

wherein the apparatus is configured, in response to ~~an~~ the alert, to allow a user to join a conference by switching the identified conference voice channel to the user terminal.